should be restructured in conjuction with a dilution of public sector shareholding.

(c) Manufacture of telecommunication equipment has been delicensed and permitted in the private sector as well to meet the requirements.

Amendment of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

3418. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) What are the difficulties being experienced by Government in operating certain provisions of the 100 years old Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in the context of changed telecommunications scenario in the country.

(b) whether the 17 Member Committee appointed by his Ministry to review and amend the Indian Telegraph Act, has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) by when Government propose to bring a suitable legislation amending the Indian Telegraph Act, before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, the services and technology have undergone a sea change since the enactment of the Indian Telegraph Act in 1885. While there were a few telephones in the main cities and only telegraph service available for common use, now we have a large number of services e.g. telephone, telex data and fax. While lines and wires were the main mode of transmission in 1885, the present day technology offers a host of options such as microwave, optical fibre, satellite communication etc. The Act as it stands today is not capable of catering to all the aspects arising out of the widening of the scope of technology and services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The report is under consideration of the Department.

Excess Telephone Billing in Hyderabad

3419. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of phone subcribers in Hyderabad have been complaining of excess telephone bills;

(b) the no. of complaints of excess telephone bills which are pending with the Hyderabad Telephones; and

(c) what steps are being taken to resolve this problem satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for from the concerned unit and the same shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Proposal to set up a Corporation like MTNL at Hyderabad

3420. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Corporation like MTNL to administer Hyderabad Telephones; and

(b) what other proposals are under consideration for better administration of Hyderabad Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no sepecific proposal under consideration for Hyderabad Telephones separately.